

FREE!**Friday Evening**

ANIME EXPOSURES

The Official ANIME EXPO 2000 Newsletter

- Karaoke Competition 7:00p
- Meet the Guests! 7:00p
- Gaming Room Opens 7:00p
- Dance! 10:00p

Issue 2**Because Animated Minds Want To Know****June 30, 2000**

Above: Takada Akemi draws the first eye on the daruma, an AX opening ceremonies tradition. Left: All GoHs pose with the check to be presented to the City of Hope Foundation.

AX FANS - DON'T TAUNT THE MOUSE!!

Seventeen Guests of Honor Start Off Anime Expo 2000 and Help Present a Donation Check to the City of Hope Foundation

The lines! The lines! Anime Expo 2000 officially began today at the opening ceremony. The people lined up en masse, waiting for a glimpse of the Guests of Honors (GoHs). With the main ballroom filled to capacity, the lights dimmed, and the excitement began (albeit 50 minutes late, but then that's nothing new).

Emcee Jeff Okomoto welcomed the jubilant audience and announced the seventeen GoHs, an unprecedented number. Mike Tastugawa, the President of SPJA, welcomed fans and declared that AX 2000 broke records with: a record number of guests (17!), a record convention length of four days (never attempted since AnimeCon '92), and a record number of attendees (10,000!!).

The GoHs were the main attrac-

tion. Both new faces and returning veterans are part of this year's panel. New GoH Mahiro Maeda received loud acclamation for his work with Macross: Do You Remember Love? and his monster designs of Evangelion. He also welcomed the crowd with excellent English, as he told all the attendees how pleasantly surprised he is at the large number of anime fans gathered thus far. Meanwhile, his colleague director Kazuki Akane amazed the crowd with just how brand spanking new the Escaflowne movie is: it was finished only 3 weeks ago! Also among the distinguished guests is fan-favorite Yu Watase, who returns after first attending AX '98. Screaming applause broke out at the mere mention of her name. Unfortunately, Watase can't stay for

the entire convention, so take advantage of her panels and autograph sessions while you can. Not to be left out, veteran anime director Kunihiko Ikuhara returns to his third

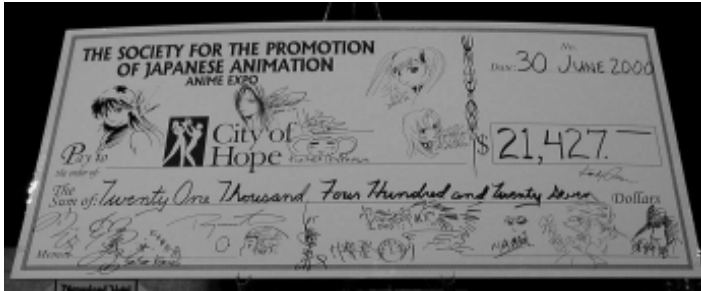
See OPENING CEREMONIES, Page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- **Vandread Panel in Live Programming 2 from 2:00 pm, Saturday.** See a world premiere showing of its pilot film! Also view a message video from Japan, introducing the series director Takeshi Mori and voice actress Yumi Kakazu!

- **X The Movie will not be shown tonight at 10pm**, due to technical difficulties

year at AX along with wild cheers of his works on Sailor Moon and Revolutionary Girl Utena. He would like to note that his still doesn't have a girlfriend (a trademark remark), so girls, please visit him! There were also many funny stories that GoHs recounted during opening ceremony. Utena manga artist Chiho Saito saw the beaches of Los Angeles and wanted to go swimming only to



All the GoHs have graced this donation check with their autographs and sketches

be told that E. Coli infests the waters. Screenwriter Aya Matsui is well known for her work with Marmalade Boy, but she pleads, "I'm just a writer, so please to don't ask me to draw a picture." However, the most enthusiastic GoH title belongs to none other than voice actress Rica Fukami (of Sailor Venus fame). Don in girly pigtails, she loudly broke into character during her introduction, to which the translator could only interpret: "we'll skip the segment that [should be] subtitled." Fukami fans take note, in case you want to see

her in action, she'll be at the **live dubbing of Macross Plus (as Myung) on Sunday, July 2nd at 6:00 PM (Live Program 3)**. The festive mood continued even after all the GoHs were introduced, when the entire audience sang a belated "Happy Birthday" to a blushing Chiho

Saito, who turned one year older yesterday. The ceremony

ended with SPJA's check written out to the City of Hope - a charity organization dedicated to the care of terminally ill children as well as various medical research - totaling an amount of \$21,427. After wishing good fortune and success for AX 2000, Takada Akemi drew an eye on the daruma statue (an AX tradition) and Honorary Chairman Akira Kamuiya announced in his famous City Hunter voice, "I declare this convention is open!" And please, AX fans, don't taunt the Mouse!

- Wing Fox and Jing Tung

Check Your Weapons at the Door

You know that really cool Squall gunblade you saw that guy carrying around? Or Sagara Sanosuke's Zanbatou that seems to keep showing up at cons like a bad rash? Well, the friendly folks at AX and Disneyland Hotel would like to remind you of our weapons policy. Basically, we need you to present your weapons to a qualified AX staff member to be inspected, approved and peace-

bonded. You may be required to sign a waiver in the process of having your weapon peace-bonded. "But they aren't real weapons," you say? (If they are, then they really aren't allowed.) We still need to check them out. Some people are so easily convinced by costume weapons, so you can't be too sure. So, if you'd like to brandish that larger than life weapon in your cosplay, mosey on over to any one of those people



Another gundam loses its head.



Whoops! It went 'boom'!

with bright red vests emblazoned with the AX staff logo, and ask them to peace-bond your piece --- they'll be happy to help. Remember, if you are caught with a functional (aka real) weapon, your membership will be revoked and you will be on the receiving end of further legal action.

-- Marie Meier and Karen Olympia



GoH Takada a Success!

Akemi Takada: We Love You!!

Akemi Takada's panel session this afternoon at 1:00 PM christened the beginning of seventeen GoHs for AX 2000. Fans waited in lines once again and anxiously filled the room with their excitement of meeting the person behind the art they adore.

With her third year at AX, she has brought to AX (for the first time in the United States!) her private collection of famous and widely loved artwork. Along with her she included works from the enduring series *Kimagure Orange Road*, as well as *Patlabor* and one from the new *Creamy Mami*. Her artwork, proudly presented is displayed in the Sierra, Pacific Room, for all fans to admire. She is selling some of her work in the Dealer's Room, starting from \$400. She will also have two autograph sessions, where she will sign a total of 100 autographs. As a special bonus, she created two stamps just for fans here at AX2000 that she will use in her autographs.

To begin the short, hour-long panel session (before anyone had raised their hand), Takada first answered the one question that is always asked: "How did you get involved with anime character design?" Well, she began saying that she had no clue that she wanted to be a

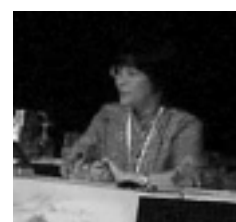
character designer. She had collected manga at home as a child, but her parents threw away her collections (hidoi!), which forced her to go to the library to reread old manga. When she grew up, her parents enrolled her into art school, telling her that she had no talent...and, at the time, she didn't. She spent her time going to an anime production studio, bringing cake and candy as small bribes to the company. Although she studied graphic design, she was hired to work in the anime studio she so frequently visited.

After this the fans then bombarded her with questions. She smiled through them all, smartly evading some. Her birthday? March 31. Favorite character? She has been asked this ten times already, and each time she answered differently. For AX 2000, she decided that the characters she likes are her original *Creamy Mami* designs. Studio Perriot will remake this series next year, and the president of Studio Perriot hopes that *Creamy Mami* will reach the fame of *Madoka* from *Kimagure Orange Road*. She believes that she'll always favor the character she's working on, so it's no wonder that she likes *Creamy Mami*. Favorite color? Pink, turquoise blue and aqua blue, but one can already tell from her artwork. Her comment about working with directors? From her years of experience, she offers some advice. Directors usually always have the last word, so if you defy them, it only

prolongs your work.

Answering our prayers for more and more artwork, Takada will be releasing her original creations in two artbooks. The first one will come out later this year. The second one will be released spring next year. Let's hope that it's cheaper than \$400. As the session ended, she brought out her own video camera and took pictures of her fans. After all, who isn't a fan at AX 2000?

—Jing Tung



Guests of Honor

Spotlights for the day

Kazuki Akane

With the long anticipated Escaflowne movie premiering at AX 2000, director Kazuki Akane's first appearance will no doubt receive high acclamation. Fans have come from far and wide to see these redesigned characters. How will the new Hitomi and Van look in the movie? How will the story differ from the television series? Only time will tell. All those curious can go watch the movie, showing on Friday at midnight and Saturday at 8:00 PM.

Takada Akemi

Best known and widely loved for the characters she designed in *Kimagure Orange Road*, Takada Akemi brings her collection of original illustrations for the first

See GoH SPOTLIGHT, Page 4

EXPOSED!

What does anime mean to you?



"No boundaries for what can be shown-- anything is possible."

Isaac Alexander
Gig Harbor, WA



"Various art styles, each with their own flavor with something appealing for all. Sugo desu ne?!"

Amy "Kenpo" Tiller

(lower right)

Philadelphia, PA

"It is my Mecca; the best thing in the world."

"Anime is art and prettiness! Anime is awesome coffee."

Gabi-Chan

(lower left)

Philadelphia, PA

Andy Cuellar

(top)

Bloomington, MN



"Umm, I guess it means getting together with lots of friends, having fun, existing in another world for a little while and practicing Japanese."

Gina Kozrner

Scio, Or-



"Anime is artwork. It is much better than Rocky and Bullwinkle and just better than Roger Rabbit--which is just stupid is. It just takes a step backwards."

Bernard Acero
Vallejo, CA



"The world baby!"

Jason "Lord Kagato" Steward
Las Vegas, NV



"..."

Goofy
Anaheim, CA

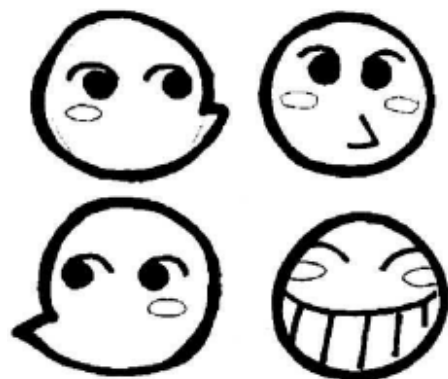
GoH SPOTLIGHT from page 3

time to North America. This exhibit is presented by GoFa (Gallery of Fantastic Art) and is located in the Sierra Tower, Pacific Room. It's open on Saturday from 10:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Kunihiko Ikuhara

The always eccentric but never boring director of Sailor Moon and Revolutionary Girl Utena brings to AX 2000 his newest and most surreal project: the Utena Movie, Revelation of Adolescence. Mr. Ikuhara is known for providing off-the-wall answers during Q & A sessions. His many fangirls (and guys) will no doubt be eager to see how he explains the very bizarre movie that he directed. The Utena Movie makes its AX premiere on Saturday at 4:00 PM.

- Wing Fox and Jing Tung



FRIDAY LIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE!

FRIDAY	Live Program 1 (Grand Ballroom)	Live Program 2 (Coronado)	Live Program 3 (Avalon)	Gaming (Mediterranean)
7:00	Meet the Guests reception	Anime Discussion	Karaoke Competition	Open Gaming
8:00	Meet the Guests reception	Shoujo Fan Panel	Karaoke Competition	Gundam
9:00p	Meet the Guests reception	Anime on DVD	Karaoke Competition	Gundam
10:00	Dance	Cel Collectors	Karaoke Competition	Gundam
11:00	Dance	Cel Collectors	-	Gundam
12:00	Dance	-	-	-
1:00	-	-	-	-
2:00	-	-	-	-
3:00	-	-	-	-